



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD SMUGGLER OF 1-YEAR-OLD AND 8-YEAR-OLD BOYS SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jorge Alberto Salazar-Quevedo, 28, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 18 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins. Salazar-Quevedo pleaded guilty on November 24, 2008, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit after he attempted to smuggle two young children into the United States.

Salazar-Quevedo attempted to enter the U.S. on July 19, 2008, via the pedestrian lane at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry with an 8-year-old boy and a 1-year-old child who was dressed to look like a girl. Salazar-Quevedo presented a laser visa for himself and laser visas for the two minors claiming the 8-year-old was his neighbor's son and the 1-year-old was his girlfriend's daughter. The laser visas presented did not belong to the children. Salazar-Quevedo said he was taking the children to a fast food restaurant in Nogales to eat.

Later during questioning by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials, Salazar-Quevedo said that his neighbor and the neighbor's friend asked him if he would smuggle the children from Mexico into the United States for \$200. Salazar-Quevedo stated that visas were given to him to present on behalf of the children and that he was instructed to take the children to the restaurant where an unknown person would be waiting for him. It was later discovered that the 1-year-old was in fact a boy.

The smuggled children were determined to be in the U.S. illegally and were turned over to the custody of the Mexican Consulate who then turned them over to the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) to be reunited with his family.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-1013-TUC-RCC
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